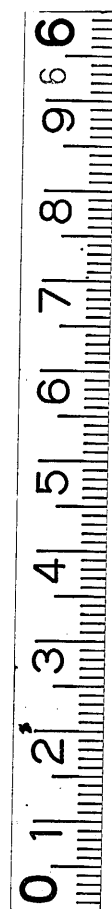


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THE  
SHOEMAKER'S CASE,  
WITH THEIR  
*Appeal to Cæsar.*  
TOGETHER  
With a Letter to Sir *John Strange*, Knt.  
MASTER of the ROLLS.  
[ Price THREE-PENCE. ]

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T H E  
S H O E M A K E R ' s C A S E ,  
W I T H T H E I R  
A p p e a l u n t o C æ s a r ,

A N D  
B o t h H o u s e s o f P A R L I A M E N T ,

F O R  
A n A C T t o p r e v e n t t h e E x p o r t a -  
t i o n o f U N W R O U G H T L E A T H E R ; a n d t o  
t a k e o f t h e D R A W B A C K .

T O G E T H E R ,  
W i t h a L E T T E R t o S i r J O H N S T R A N G E , K n t .  
M a s t e r o f t h e R o l l s .

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By B. Y A P P , *Cordwainer.*

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L O N D O N :  
P r i n t e d f o r t h e A U T H O R .  
M , D C C C L .

SHOEMAKER'S CASE

T H E  
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W I T H T H E I R

A p p e a l u n t o C æ s a r .

A N D

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By B. Y A P P , *Cordwainer.*

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L O N D O N :  
P r i n t e d f o r t h e A U T H O R .  
M , D C C C L .



THE  
SHOEMAKER'S CASE, &c.

DREAD SOVEREIGN,



AY it please your Majesty of your great Goodness, to lend a Gracious Ear to the Petition of your Majesty's loyal and most faithful Subjects, by Trade, Shoemakers.

Your Majesty's humble Petitioners are a large Part of the common Wealth, a People in number more than fifty thousand, all groaning under the grievous Yoke of Oppression, from which

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none

( 6 )

none but your Majesty can deliver them. Pardon Great Sovereign, the great Presumption of your Majesty's Petitioners, and permit us to lay before your Majesty and both Houses of Parliament, a true State of our Case, with the Cause of our Calamity and Distress: For the Truth of which we appeal to the King of Kings, under whom for Redress we appeal unto *Cæsar*.

And first we thank the wise Disposer of the Universe, for that he has in a singular Manner blest this Kingdom with a Gracious and Glorious Sovereign, and with the inestimable Pearl of the Soul, Freedom and Liberty, whilst other Countries are enslav'd under arbitrary and tyrannical Princes. BRITONS! Free BRITONS! Enjoy all the Liberty that Heart can wish; Liberty to chuse their own Lawgivers; Liberty to exercise their Religion; Liberty of Conscience; Liberty in Case of Distress from Men in Power; who peradventure may sometimes abuse the Trust repos'd in them to appeal to their Sovereign, who, as a loving and tender Father to his People, never fails to redress their Grievances.

We your Majesty's humble Petitioners have been many Years griev'd by the Decay of our Trade; which, together with the unaccountable Increase of the Artists, have at last reduc'd us all

( 7 )

all to the lowest Ebb of Poverty; and unless some Expedient be found out to cure the growing Evil, God only knows what Consequences it may produce. Shoemaker's have ever been ready to sacrifice their Lives for their Liberty, as may be witness'd by the many Thousands of them that drew their Swords for your Majesty's last War; in which 'tis presum'd, never any behav'd better, as has been declar'd by your royal Son, and all his Officers; as likewise by all your Majesty's Admirals and Sea Officers, who to a Man applaud the Valour of Shoemakers, when our Country was insulted by haughty *Spain*; who so ready to enter the List in defence of Liberty as Shoemakers; when *France* had set herself a Float and join'd our Enemies, none so exasperated at her Insolence; none so ready to correct it as the brave Shoemakers, when all the Powers of Hell had combin'd to overturn our Church and State, by introducing a Popish Pretender, and stirring up a Rebellion, at a Time when most of our Strength was employ'd Abroad; blessed be God, we had Shoemaker's enough at Home to send them all to the lower Regions; 'tis hoped by this Time, they have their Bellies full of Rebellion; but if ever they should dare to attempt a Crime so vainly rash, let them expect a more severe Drubbing than ever, though none but Shoemakers were permitted to cudgel them. Pardon the Digression.

Now

( 6 )

Now it has pleas'd the Almighty to give Peace to this Nation, after a most bloody and tedious War, in which our Trade signaliz'd themselves in so extraordinary a Manner; is it not a Pity Shoemakers should starve for Want of Trade and Leather; our Trade is transported; our Leather is transported; and unless your Majesty is graciously pleas'd to prevent the Exportation of Leather; we the Artificers shall be compell'd to pray for Transportation after it; for what can the Clothier do without Wool, or the Shoemaker without Leather.

Formerly when our Leather was kept at Home, our Craftsmen, your loyal Subjects, was all fully employ'd, and Foreigners were forc'd to be our Purchasers for Shoes, or wear wooden ones, according to their Custom. But now our Leather is sent Abroad unwrought, they make Shoes for themselves, and laugh at your Majesty's starving Subjects.

'Tis well known throughout the whole World, that there is no Leather like *English* Leather; neither can the World produce any Men that know so well how to make use of it; for which Reason, if your Majesty would take it into your royal Consideration, you will easily

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perceive that it is your Majesty's Interest to prohibit the base Practice of sending unwrought Leather out of the Land; and is it not a greater Piece of Policy in a Prince, to make fifty thousand of his Subjects happy, than to permit a few miserly, monopolizing Hucksters to make them miserable; who being encourag'd by a Penny a Pound Debentary, and a sure Sale for so valuable a Commodity, engross all they can, and care not if the Devil employ the Shoemaker.

Since your Majesty's auspicious Reign, there has been more wholesome Laws made then ever *England* could boast of. Oh! how many thousand of Men, Women and Children, continually pray for your Majesty and the Government for the Wool Act; and if they was join'd by so large a Body as the Body of Shoemakers, with their Wives and Children; also for an Act in their Favour, how acceptable it would be to the King of Kings, who is a God hearing Prayer, and whose Ears are always open to the Cries of the Poor.

Had not our Case been desperate, we would not have proceeded thus far; but we have been several Years waiting for better Times, and every Year worse than the last, till now our Leather

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( 10 )

ther is more than fifty *per Cent.* advanc'd, and more than Half our Hands unemploy'd; and if we are not speedily redrefs'd by your Majesty and the Parliament, we must appeal to the King of Kings, to whose Protection and Direction we recommend your Majesty.



A LETTER

A

# LETTER

TO THE

TRULY HONOURABLE

BRITISH PATRIOT,

Sir John Strange, Knt.

MASTER of the ROLLS.



L O N D O N :

Printed for the AUTHOR.

( 13 )



To the TRULY HONOURABLE

BRITISH PATRIOT,

Sir John Strange, Knt.

Master of the Rolls, &amp;c.

MOST HONOURED SIR,

**I**N the Name of the whole Trade, for whose Sakes I am ready to be sacrific'd to all the Force of Envy, and all the Malice of Leather Hucksters. I congratulate you, Sir, on your happy Exaltation to the High Station of Master of the Rolls; in which, if you shine with that transparent Lustre you have ever shone in, ascending by gradual Steps to the high Pitch of Preferment; you'll have it to say, as it never yet was said of any Man in your Station:

Thro' all the Scenes of Life and Law,  
I've taken my Degrees;  
My Life's an Act without a Flaw,  
I ne'er took double Fees.

*Pardon*

( 14 )

Pardon me, Sir, I do not reflect Dishonour upon the honourable Profession of a Lawyer, whose very Name has something in it that's laudable and venerable; but as one Star differs from another in Glory; so does one good Lawyer from another; and seeing Providence has plac'd you in the British Firmament as a Star of the largest Magnitude; you dazzle the Eyes of all Beholders, more especially the Gentle Craft, who are not a little rejoic'd to see that so flourishing a Branch of the Noble Craft is grown so high, that he can be no higher, 'till the Master of the Rolls in Heaven, says, Come up hither. But who could bear the Loss of such a Man; of such a Friend; of such a Pattern; of such a rare Example, of both Law and Gospel. But whenever it happens, let these Lines be a Means of paliating the Grief of the Survivors:

No more let hopeless Mortals weep;  
 Be chearful, wipe your Eyes;  
 What tho' in Dust my Body sleeps,  
 My Soul's above the Skies.  
 When Judge on Earth Justice maintain'd,  
 With Joy my Judge I meet;  
 For which a starry Crown I've gain'd:  
 Lo! Now my Joy's compleat.  
 In Truth and Justice follow me,  
 'Till Death your Bodies change;  
 You also shall recorded be,  
 With happy Sir JOHN STRANGE.

But,

( 15 )

But, Sir, although my Muse have been a little to free, I hope you'll excuse me for indulging the Thought; seeing 'tis the Produce of a kind Wish, and can be no Way detrimental to you, though the whole World should read it; but there is something to be done to add Glory to Glory, and to eternize your Fame. It seems to me as if Providence had plac'd you in the State of Life, wherein you stand for some extraordinary Purpose, as Joseph was sent to Egypt to save his Brethren from Famine and Death; so you, Sir, I trust will use your utmost Endeavour to save your Brethren (Pardon me, Sir, for being so free) the Gentle Craft, from the Famine of Trade and Leather: You may remember, Sir, about thirty Years ago our Trade flourish'd, and your Father flourish'd in it, and gain'd a handsome Fortune thereby, which enabled him so handsomely to provide for his Son; although you was not much concern'd in the Trade, you cannot forget how it was that Shoemakers liv'd in them Days; and 'tis easy to see with Half an Eye how they starve now a Days; You are happy, Sir, that You was not bred to the Trade, for 'tis with the utmost Difficulty that the greatest Masters keep Cart upon Wheel. We have lost our Exportation Trade in a great Measure, the Price of Shoes are continually falling; the Price of Leather continually rising; the Number of Hands continually increasing; the Trade in general continually decreasing; and how is it possible for Men to live, Half our Hands are unemploy'd,



( 16 )

employ'd, the other Half not Half employ'd, whereby our Parishes are burthen'd, and the whole Kingdom begin to feel the Smart of it, Men are forc'd to leave their Families, their Countries, and to serve Abroad for Bread, and all because their Leather is sent Abroad unwrought: whereas on the contrary, was our Leather kept at Home, there would be work enough to employ all our Hands; our Parishes would be eas'd of their Charge; his Majesty's Subjects kept at Home; and, instead of strengthening the Hand of their Enemies, be ever ready to defend the King and their Country against Invaders: I take the greater Freedom, Sir, because by woeful Experience I know what I write is Truth, and for which I can appeal to God and the whole Multitude of Shoemakers. And it is with the greatest Reluctance I suffer myself to be so far prevail'd on as to expose the naked Poverty of the once Noble Craft to a scoffing World. How many are there, that being ignorant of our Calamity and Distress, rail on us for a Company of drunken, idle Fellows, not considering the Nature of their Case; peradventure, some there may be amongst us like scabby Sheep; but how come they so, the Master keeps them Half employ'd, and 'tis contrary to the very Nature of a Shoemaker to remain in a State of Inaction on this Side the Grave. Thus when Multitudes are out of Business they associate together; and according to the Scripture, they drink and forget their Poverty. But sure!

such

( 17 )

such another Company there is not on Earth! for, I assure you, Sir, was you sometimes to hear the Debates, the Consultations, the Propositions, Questions and Solutions, that's handled and canvass'd amongst the Gentle Craft, You would think they were more like a Company of Statesmen, Politicians, Philosophers, Astronomers, Logicians, Rhetoricians, Lawyers and Physicians, than Journey-men Shoemakers. For my own Part, I confess myself altogether a Stultus, in Comparison with many of them; for being ignorant of Letters, I have often been at a loss to know what Language they spoke. But this just Observation I have made among them, that they were one and all loyal Subjects to the Crown of Great Britain. I never was more delighted than I have been to hear some of them that has been Abroad in the Wars, relate their Exploits, how they block'd up Cadiz, and terrified the Queen of Spain when she long'd for a Haddock, and all the Fishermen in Spain could not catch him: What Harvock they made under the brave Vernon at Porto Bello; and how gloriously, how valiantly and bravely they fought at Carthagena, where many of them had the Privilege to adorn the Bed of Honour.

Give me Leave, Sir, to tell you, that if ever Longitude is found out, 'twill be by some Journeyman Shoemaker; was you to hear them talk of the Latitudes and Longitudes, as Degrees,

( 18 )

grees, Gulphs, Capes, Bays, Spheres, Atmospheres, Hemispheres, &c. You would think they had all been bred to Navigation; some that has been with the world-surrounding *Anson*, gives a pretty Description of the *South Seas*; how they took *Porto Plato*, and sack'd *Lima*; and again, what Wonders they wrought under the said *Anson*, *Warren* and *Hawk*, in taking the *French* and *Spaniards*, not by single Ships, but by whole Squadrons, sure those heroic, unparallel'd Acts of Valour ought to be enrolled in the Records of Fame: Had the War continued much longer, neither *French* nor *Spaniards* would have dar'd to appear upon the Seas. But let us leave our *CRISPIN Tars* to the Study of Longitude, and take a little Notice of our Craft's Behaviour in *Flanders*, *Germany* and *North Britain*; I have often listen'd to their Discourse to hear how they manag'd the *Frenchmen*; and our Sovereign Lord the King was an Eye Witness to their Bravery, and 'tis hoped will not forget that Day's Work, when the Shoemaker's Petition is presented before him; but what crowns all their heroic Loyalty was, the Readiness they shew'd when All was at stake, to aid the noble Duke of *CUMBERLAND* in suppressing the Rebellion. But sure, never did any Company of Men on Earth go so cheerful to any Diversion, as the Shoemakers did to the decisive Battle, all to a Man swearing they

( 19 )

they would conquer or die for King *GEORGE* and the Duke of *CUMBERLAND*; and they was as good as their Words, for in a few Hours they deliver'd their Country from all the Dangers wherewith 'twas threaten'd; and all that I could do towards it was, to spirit up my Countrymen, and discommode the Enemy with a few loyal Songs.

Sometimes in Verse I made Men pray,

And with the Duke good Luck;

And oftentimes I won the Day,

Before a Blow was struck:

What tho' my Body was so small,

With Sword my Foes to kill,

I instantly would slay them all

With my all-conquering Quill.

And now, Sir, I must beg your Pardon for stretching my Subject beyond my Intent; but the Shoemaker is not gone beyond his Last yet; for was I to relate the brave Exploits of Shoemakers only within these few Years, 'twould swell to a Volume in Folio. If I might speak it without Offence, I would mention a Republick that was deliver'd from her Enemies, at a Time when an Army had Possession of it, by the Hand of a Shoemaker, who surpriz'd the Garrison, and retook the City with only a Shop Knife in his Hand; but as that has found a  
Place

Place in the **GENOESE** Records, I shall wave it, and so conclude with only this Remark, that as our *noble Crafts* has given undeniable Proofs of their Valour in all Ages; but more especially in the last ten Years, 'tis Pity they should want Leather to exercise their lawful Trade in times of Peace; and as you great Sir, can better acquaint his Majesty and the Parliament of their Worth and Distress, then any other Person whatsoever; you are therefore requested with Submission to your Will, to use your Interest in our Favour: if only the **DRAWBACK** was taken of, 'twould be a means of preventing in a great Measure the Exportation of Leather, but if 'tis quite prohibited, our Craft will once again flourish, and we will engage to furnish his Majesty with Men enough to preserve the **BRITISH CROWN** in the most illustrious Line of **BRUNSWICK**, till Time shall be no more; and as in Duty bound, we with our Wives and Children, shall ever pray:

I am, SIR,

*With the greatest Respect,*

*Your most obedient,*

*Humble Servant,*

**B. YAPP.**

**F I N - I S.**